

me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

IN RECOGNITION OF MICHIGAN
TECH RESEARCH INSTITUTE'S
GROUNDBREAKING ADVANCE-
MENTS IN TECHNOLOGY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of the Michigan Tech Research Institute on the date of its 10th anniversary celebration. Located in Ann Arbor as a division of Michigan Technological University, MTRI has driven advancements in sensor and information technology to help solve critical problems in a variety of fields.

Michigan Tech Research Institute was founded in October 2006 with the goal of utilizing Michigan Tech's resources and expertise to transform research findings into commercial products with real-world applications. The institute has focused on using technology to better understand natural and manmade environments. Today, MTRI supports 64 researchers in over 17,000 square feet of space and has drawn support from federal, industry and universities across North America.

MTRI has leveraged cutting-edge academic research to create solutions to real-world problems. Its work on mapping coastal wetlands in the Great Lakes region has been used by federal, state and local agencies to better manage and conserve the environment in these areas. Additionally, MTRI has been able to map the spread of algal blooms in Lake Erie, which has allowed researchers and environmental groups to better understand and combat the spread of this environmental phenomenon. It has also collaborated with federal government agencies like DARPA on defense applications of its research.

MTRI has served as a model of collaboration between the public, private and non-profit sectors. By bringing key stakeholders and experts together to tackle environmental, infrastructure and national security challenges, the institute has created breakthroughs in a variety of fields while supporting basic and applied research initiatives. This multidisciplinary approach will continue to be useful for addressing problems at the cross-section of different fields and disciplines, and MTRI's consistent revenue and sponsorship growth is a testament to the success of its organizational model.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the success of the Michigan Tech Research Institute. It is my hope that the organization will continue to build on its track record of success and innovation.

BETTY AND HAROLD PAYTE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Betty & Harold Payte for receiving the Golden Mayor's Award for Excellence.

Betty and Harold Payte are role models and community activists for healthy living. Both in their mid-eighties, they are thoughtful, caring, and inclusive leaders who have attracted a large and loyal following to their weekly community "walk and talks" through Golden. In all weather and all seasons, for people of all ages and abilities, with residents from all over the metropolitan area, the Paytes share their joy in moving through Golden's beautiful outdoor environment. Betty roams up and down the line of walkers to make sure everyone has a walking partner and to see if anyone needs extra encouragement. Harold, a humorous storyteller, usually serves as "sweep" at the back of the group with slower-paced walkers; the Paytes encourage all of us to live full, joyful, healthy lives.

I congratulate Betty & Harold Payte for being the recipient of this well-deserved honor by Mayor Marjorie Sloan, and I thank them for their continued commitment to the people and families they serve.

RECOGNIZING THE MAINE MARINE
TRADES ASSOCIATION'S 50
YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to acknowledge and honor the important work of the Maine Marine Trades Association. For five decades, this organization has educated boat builders and marine businesses in best practices, with particular focus on worker safety and the preservation of the natural resources upon which the industry and the people of Maine depend.

Under Executive Director Susan Swanton's able leadership, the Maine Marine Trades Association has promoted growth and cooperation, influencing many aspects of the marine industry through job development and successful partnerships with the Maine Departments of Labor, Environmental Protection, and Marine Resources, as well as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and many other state and national organizations.

Originally run completely by volunteers, the Maine Marine Trades Association maintains a strong tradition of volunteer participation. Such is the norm in my state. People pull together to get things done, and Maine's long and rich tradition of boating, fishing, and boat building is part of our rich heritage.

Living on an island 12 miles off the coast of Maine, every ferry trip to or from the mainland takes me past pleasure craft, fishermen, boatyards, and marinas. And, with my District Congressional Office located on Portland Harbor's working waterfront, reminders of the economic and cultural impact of this industry surround me.

I am proud of and grateful for the Maine Marine Trades Association's commitment not only to protecting and enhancing a way of life in Maine, but to promoting an important, time-honored means of making a living.

HONORING COLONEL OTIS EVANS,
U.S. ARMY, RETIRED

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Otis Evans, U.S. Army, retired. COL Evans answered the call to defend our great nation for 27 years and continues to dutifully serve his community of Killeen, Texas in civilian life. An exemplary serviceman and citizen, it is my honor to award COL Evans with the Congressional Veterans Commendation.

A distinguished military graduate from Prairie View A&M University, COL Evans commissioned as a Second Lieutenant and began his military career flying aero-medical evacuation aircraft in Vietnam. In high-risk situations ranging from enemy fire to extreme weather, COL Evans remained steadfastly loyal to his fellow soldiers, refusing to abort a mission without the wounded aboard his aircraft. Relying on the Good Lord for strength, COL Evans' leadership, dedication, and bravery saved the lives of many. For his service and bravery in combat, COL Evans was awarded the Silver Star, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, Bronze Star, the Combat Medical Badge, and the Master Aviator Badge. After twelve years of flying, COL Evans transitioned to Heath Care Operations, and later to Health Care Administration, concluding his career at Walter Reed Medical Center.

COL Evans' service and sense of duty did not culminate with his military service. Upon returning to the great state of Texas, COL Evans dedicated his civilian life to the uplifting and betterment of his community, serving on the Killeen City Council, the Central Texas Council of Governments, and as President of the Killeen, Texas Branch, NAACP. Alongside his involvement in these and numerous other organizations, COL Evans has remained committed to honoring his fallen brothers in arms, assisting in the planning of the 2009 Fort Hood shooting memorial.

COL Evans' patriotism and commitment to service reflect the very best values of Central Texas. He is a hero who has devoted his life to defending our freedoms abroad and serving his community at home. I join his wife, Rosalind, his children, and grandchildren in wishing him the best in the years ahead.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE AMERICAN ARAB CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR ITS PROMOTION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the Arab American Chamber of Commerce for its economic and trade development efforts. The Chamber has served the Michigan community well, and we wish them continued success in helping to build a vibrant and diverse economy for our region and state.

Founded in 1992, the American Arab Chamber of Commerce has worked to support the